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the X-MEN

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NEVER HAVE THE X-MEN FOUGHT A FOE AS UNSTOPPABLE AS UNUS! NEVER HAVE THE X-MEN COME SO CLOSE TO BEING SPLIT UP! (AND NEVER HAVE YOU READ SUCH A BOASTFUL BLURB!)

The UNCANNY THREAT of "UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE!"

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X-MEN
THE MOST UNUSUAL TEEN-AGERS OF ALL TIME!

The UNCANNY THREAT OF... "UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE!"

TRY THAT POWER GLIDE *AGAIN*, ANGEL... CONCENTRATING ON INCREASED *SPEED!* THE *BEAST* COULD HAVE GRABBED YOU IF HE'D WANTED TO!

ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE RECENTLY GRADUATED AFTER COMPLETING THEIR PRESCRIBED COURSE OF TRAINING, THE EXTRAORDINARY *X-MEN* STILL DO POST-GRADUATE EXERCISES UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF *CYCLOPS*, THEIR NEW INTERIM LEADER!

NOT *ME*, SCOTTY! I WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED WATCHING JEAN THREADING THOSE LACES TELEKINETICALLY!

PRODUCED BY MARVEL'S FANTASTIC FOURSOME...
STAN LEE, WRITER
JACK KIRBY, ARTIST
CHIC STONE, INKER
S.ROSEN, LETTERER

#X-803

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YOUR SPEED WAS BETTER THAT TIME, WARREN... BUT YOU MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER TO WATCH OUT FOR ANY *TRAPS* YOU MAY BE FLYING INTO!

ATTA BOY, SCOTTY! *THAT'LL* KNOCK SOME OF THE CONCEIT OUT OF THAT HUMAN PARAKEET!

CAREFUL WHERE YOU'RE WAVING THAT ELONGATED ICEPICK, BOBBY!

WHOOSH!

AW, C'MON, SCOTT! THAT'S NO FAIR! YOU'VE GOT ALL OF PROFESSOR X'S GADGETS TO USE AGAINST US, AND ALL *WE'VE* GOT ARE OUR OWN POWERS!

THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRAINING, WARREN! YOU CAN'T CRY *FOUL* IF AN UNEXPECTED WEAPON IS USED AGAINST YOU BY *MAGNETO*, OR ANY OTHER FOE, CAN YOU?

HAH! THAT'S TELLIN' HIM, CYKE, OL' BOY!

WHAT ARE *YOU* GLOATING ABOUT, ICEMAN? *YOU'RE* PART OF THIS TRAINING PROGRAM *TOO*, YOUNG FELLA! NOW *QUICKLY*... *DEFEND YOURSELF!*

HUH?? WHA...?? WHERE...?? *HEY! LOOK OUT! DON'T!*

IS *THAT* WHAT YOU WOULD SAY TO A SUDDEN ATTACK BY THE *BLOB*, BOBBY?? HASN'T THE PROFESSOR TOLD YOU *ALWAYS* TO BE ON GUARD!?

NOW, STAND WHERE YOU ARE AND PRACTICE REFINING YOUR ICE CRYSTALS, AS I'VE SUGGESTED!

OKAY, TEACH! ... WATCH *THIS!*

EXCELLENT! BY INCREASING YOUR DEGREE OF COLD, YOUR BODY BECOMES EVEN *MORE* ICY, MAKING YOU ALMOST TRANSPARENT!

YOU'RE BECOMING A REGULAR *SUE STORM*, KIDDO!

AW, SHUDDUP, ANGEL!

JEAN, PROFESSOR X WOULD BE *PROUD* OF YOUR PROGRESS IN CONTROLLING YOUR TELEKINETIC POWER!

CAREFUL, NOW! LET'S SEE HOW QUICKLY YOU CAN RUN THE THREAD THROUGH THE PUNCH-BOARD IN A REGULAR PATTERN!

EXACTLY SIX SECONDS! THAT BEATS YOUR PREVIOUS TIME! NOW GET IT DOWN... LET'S EXAMINE IT!

EXCEPT FOR ONE STITCH WHICH YOU DROPPED, IT'S FLAWLESS! YOU CAN REST NOW!

IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER THE WORDS I *REALLY* WANT TO SAY! HOW GORGEOUS HER LIPS ARE... HOW SILKEN HER HAIR IS... HOW I *LOVE* HER! BUT, I DARE NOT...

I HAVEN'T THE RIGHT! NOT NOW, WHEN I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THEIR *LEADER!* I CAN'T LISTEN TO MY OWN HEART! I MUST BE DETACHED... UNEMOTIONAL! I...

I'D BETTER GET BACK TO MY *JOB!*

YOU WERE DAY-DREAMING, HANK! SEE HOW I TOOK YOU BY SURPRISE! I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT OF *YOU!*

NOR DID *I* EXPECT SUCH AN UNCALLED-FOR MANEUVER FROM *YOU*, CYCLOPS! I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION OUR TRAINING PERIOD HAD BEEN CONCLUDED!

OUR TRAINING CAN *NEVER* BE ENDED... AND YOU *KNOW* THAT, HANK! OUR ENEMIES GET STRONGER EACH DAY... AND WE MUST ALWAYS BE ABLE TO MATCH THEIR *OWN* EVIL PROGRESS!

YOU WIN, LEADER MAN! BUT, IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU BETTER, I'D FEAR THAT YOU'RE BECOMING DRUNK WITH POWER!

PERHAPS I *HAVE* BEEN WORKING YOU ALL TOO HARD! IT'S JUST THAT I WANT TO BE WORTHY OF THE CONFIDENCE PROFESSOR X HAS SHOWN IN ME! ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL FOR NOW! YOU CAN HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SCOTT? WON'T YOU JOIN US?

I'M AFRAID I *CAN'T*, JEAN! I STILL HAVE MORE WORK TO DO!

OH, SCOTT... IF ONLY YOU FELT ABOUT *ME* AS I DO ABOUT *YOU!* BUT YOU DON'T... YOU JUST DON'T!

LATER, ON THEIR FREE TIME PERIOD, WE FIND THE *BEAST* AND *ICEMAN* HEADING FOR A LITTLE GREENWICH VILLAGE COFFEE SHOP...

MUCH AS I LIKE BEIN' AN X-MAN, I SURE CAN'T WAIT TILL EACH TRAINING PERIOD IS OVER!

MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, BOBBY BOY!

BUT, TURNING A CORNER, THE TWO YOUNG MUTANTS SUDDENLY SEE...

HANK, *LOOK!* WHAT'S GOIN' *ON*?? WHAT'S EVERYONE SO *EXCITED* ABOUT???

I DON'T *KNOW!* BUT, JUDGING BY THE DEGREE OF THEIR APPREHENSION, I'D SAY...

WAIT! NOW I SEE! IT'S *UP THERE! LOOK*, BOBBY... ATOP THE WATER TOWER, ON THE ROOF OF THAT BUILDING..!

IT'S A LITTLE *BOY!* HE'S *TRAPPED* UP THERE!

HE MUST HAVE CLIMBED UP... AS A PRANK! BUT NOW HE'S *FRIGHTENED*.. HE CAN'T MAKE IT DOWN! BUT... HE CAN'T HOLD HIS GRIP *FOREVER!*

PERHAPS I CAN REACH HIM IN TIME... BY RUNNING UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!

HANK... IF YOU *DO*, YOU'LL GIVE YOUR IDENTITY AWAY! THE CROWD WILL GUESS WHO YOU ARE!

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT *THAT*, BOBBY! HERE *GOES!*

LOOK! DO YOU SEE WHAT *I* SEE ??

IT..IT ISN'T *POSSIBLE!*

IT'S POSSIBLE, ALL RIGHT... FOR A *MUTANT!*

YOU MEAN..??

OF *COURSE!* IT MUST BE... *THE BEAST!* WHAT A SHAME. NONE OF US HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HIS *FACE!*

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REACHING THE TOP OF THE WATER TOWER IN MERE SECONDS, THE POWERFUL, SOFT-SPOKEN *BEAST* GENTLY SOOTHES THE TERRIFIED YOUTH IN FRONT OF HIM...

EASY... EASY... DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! I'LL GET YOU... JUST REACH OUT YOUR HAND... SLOWLY... SLOWLY...

I..I'M AFRAID TO OPEN MY EYES...I GET *DIZZY* WHEN I DO! BUT...I'LL REACH OUT TOWARDS YOUR VOICE!

EXACTLY TWO SECONDS LATER...

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, YOUNGSTER!

TOMMY! YOU'RE *SAFE!*

NOW I'VE GOT TO MOVE TOO FAST FOR THEM TO GET A CLEAR VIEW OF MY FEATURES!

DID YOU SEE HOW HE RACED UP AND DOWN THAT BUILDING... LIKE A HUMAN *GORILLA!*

I'VE HEARD THERE ARE *MANY* SUCH MUTANTS IN HIDING... WAITING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD!

DID YOU SEE HOW HE RAN *PAST* US?? LIKE HE WAS *AFRAID* OF US ...LIKE HE *KNEW* HE'S OUR *ENEMY!*

HE PROBABLY SAVED THAT KID JUST TO THROW US OFF GUARD...TO MAKE US THINK MUTANTS AREN'T *DANGEROUS!*

BUT HE CAN'T FOOL *US!* C'MON... LET'S *GET* IM, BEFORE HE LOSES HIMSELF IN THE CROWD!

BUT, FAST AS THEY ARE ... ANGRY AS THEY ARE... THE UNTHINKING MOB CAN'T POSSIBLY KEEP PACE WITH THE SUPERBLY TRAINED TEEN-AGERS WHO RUN PAST THEM AT BREATH-TAKING SPEED...

WE CAN'T STOP THEM!

CAN'T EVEN SEE WHO THEY *ARE*, THE WAY THEY HAVE THEIR FACES COVERED!

MINUTES LATER...

HANK! BOBBY! WHAT *HAPPENED??*

I'M *THROUGH*, SCOTT! I'VE *HAD* IT!

A MOB... ALMOST *CAUGHT* US!

I'M *THROUGH* RISKING MY LIFE FOR HUMANS...FOR THE *SAME* HUMANS WHO FEAR US, HATE US, WANT TO *DESTROY* US! I THINK MAGNETO AND HIS EVIL MUTANTS ARE *RIGHT*... HOMO SAPIENS JUST AREN'T *WORTH* IT!

YOU'RE TIRED, HANK.. ALL UPSET OVER WHAT HAPPENED! YOU DON'T *MEAN* WHAT YOU SAY!

I'M IN FULL POSSESSION OF MY FACULTIES, SCOTT! I MEAN EVERY WORD! I'M *RESIGNING* FROM THE X-MEN!

BUT, HANK.. ALL YOUR TRAINING... YOUR WORK.. YOU CAN'T JUST TOSS IT ALL ASIDE!

CAN'T I? JUST *WATCH* ME! FROM NOW ON I'LL USE MY POWERS TO HELP JUST *ONE* PERSON...HENRY McCOY...YOURS TRULY! THE HUMAN RACE CAN GO FLY A KITE!

BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO? WHAT WILL YOU *DO*??

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *ME*, FELLA! *I'LL* GET ALONG! IF THE HUMAN RACE IS GONNA BE MY ENEMY--FINE! BUT *I'LL* MAKE THE RULES FOR MY NEXT FIGHT!

HANK..KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US! CALL IF YOU NEED ME! TAKE *CARE* OF YOURSELF, YOU BIG, BAD-TEMPERED LUG!

SECONDS LATER, AS SOON AS HE FINDS HIMSELF ALONE ONCE MORE, CYCLOPS ACTIVATES HIS SENSITIVE *CEREBRO* MACHINE ...

I COULDN'T PERSUADE HANK TO REMAIN! THAT MEANS... I'VE *FAILED* AS LEADER!

THIS IS OUR MOST SERIOUS SET-BACK! I'VE GOT TO CONTACT *PROFESSOR X*! THE LOSS OF AN X-MAN IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR ME TO TRY TO HANDLE *ALONE*!

SLOWLY, THE THOUGHT IMAGE OF PROFESSOR XAVIER IS CONVERTED INTO A *VISUAL* IMAGE ON THE GLOWING SCREEN, AND THEN...

I'VE MADE *CONTACT*!

PROFESSOR, THIS IS CYCLOPS! WHERE *ARE* YOU, SIR?

I AM IN THE HEART OF THE BALKANS, IN EUROPE... DESCENDING INTO AN ALMOST BOTTOMLESS CAVE!

THEN, AFTER CYCLOPS HAS RELATED THE SITUATION, THROUGH MENTAL TRANSMISSION...

WHAT DO I DO, *NOW*, SIR?

NOTHING! HE WILL *NOT* JOIN MAGNETO'S EVIL MUTANTS! YOU DID ALL YOU COULD!

BUT... WHAT OF *YOUR* MISSION...?

I CANNOT TURN BACK! I AM ON THE TRAIL OF *LUCIFER!* I SHALL TELL YOU ABOUT IT ONE DAY ---IF I RETURN! FAREWELL, CYCLOPS...

THEN, AS SCOTT SUMMERS TRIES TO PLAN HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION...

I'M LEAVING NOW, SCOTT!

AND, IF YOU WANT *MY* ADVICE, YOU'LL DISBAND THE *X-MEN!* HUMANITY ISN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE!

HANK! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO... JOIN *MAGNETO???*

WHAT I DO CONCERNS ONLY *ME* FROM NOW ON! GOOD-*BYE!*

ONE WEEK LATER, A NEW *WRESTLING* PERSONALITY EXPLODES ON THE T.V. SCREENS THROUGHOUT THE NATION! CORNY AND COLORFUL, HE SOON BECOMES A TOP-DRAW WRESTLING *VILLAIN*, PLAYING THE HEAVY UNDER THE LOGICAL NAME OF..*THE BEAST!*

BOOO, BEAST!

LOOK AT THE BIG HAMBONE!

UNUS WILL MAKE *MINCE-MEAT* OF HIM TONIGHT!

AT THE RATE I'M GOING AS A PRO WRESTLER, I'LL BE A *MILLIONAIRE* IN A YEAR!

AND, AS AN ACROBATIC WRESTLER, I CAN HOP AROUND ALL I *WANT* TO WITHOUT ANYONE SUSPECTING I'M A MUTANT!

THERE HE *GOES! WOW!* LOOK AT 'IM *JUMP!*

SO *WHAT?* HE WON'T BE ABLE TO LAY A HAND ON *UNUS!*

LADEEES AND GENTLEMEN...THE MATCH YOU'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR! THE NEW APE-LIKE SENSATION OF THE NATION...THE *BEAST*... VERSUS THE GREAT, THE UNBEATABLE, THE *UNTOUCHABLE* CHAMPION OF ALL TIME... *UNUS!*

SO *THAT'S* UNUS, EH? HE LOOKS LIKE A FORMIDABLE FOE... BUT *I'M* NO PUSHOVER MYSELF!

I'LL RUSH HIM QUICKLY, AND GET IT OVER WITH FAST SO THAT HE DOESN'T GET HURT!

BUT, AS THE BEAST MAKES ONE OF HIS POWERHOUSE CHARGES...

I DIDN'T SEE HIM *MOVE!* AND YET... I'M BEING HURLED BACK LIKE A PING PONG BALL!

YOU THINK A MERE CLUMSY RUSH CAN AFFECT *ME*??!

IT'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE! NO MATTER HOW HARD I SWING, I CAN'T MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM!!

AND NOW THAT YOU SEE HOW HOPELESS YOUR ATTEMPTS ARE, I'LL... *WHA--?!!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGE THAT LITTLE PARLOR TRICK OF YOURS, BUT *I* HAVE A FEW LITTLE STUNTS *TOO!*

I'LL KEEP SPRINGING UP TO GAIN MAXIMUM MOMENTUM, THEN I'LL DIVE DOWN AT HIM WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT!

NOW!

NOT FOR NOTHING AM I CALLED UNUS, THE *UNTOUCHABLE!*

IT...IT JUST ISN'T *POSSIBLE!* AND YET... IT'S REALLY *HAPPENING!!*

GOWAN BACK WHERE YOU *CAME* FROM, BEAST!

WHY DON'TCHA GIVE UP, YA BUM?!!

NOBODY CAN BEAT UNUS! YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!

BOOO! WHERE'D *YOU* EVER LEARN TO RASSLE??

THERE'S *MORE* TO UNUS THAN THESE HYSTERICAL FANS *SUSPECT!* HE POSSESSES SOME SORT OF AWE-SOME *POWER!*

IT'S TAKING YA SO LONG TO CLIMB BACK IN THE RING THAT THE REF'S COUNTING YOU *OUT!* UNUS WILL WIN *AGAIN!*

THAT FACE IN THE AUDIENCE! IT *IS*...IT *HAS* TO BE...*MASTER-MIND!!* ONE OF *MAGNETO'S EVIL MUTANTS!*

So STARTLED IS THE BEAST AT SEEING ONE OF HIS EX-ARCH ENEMIES, THAT HE DELAYS HIS RETURN INTO THE RING AGAIN, THEREBY LOSING THE MATCH TO UNUS! BUT, HE HAS *OTHER* THINGS ON HIS MIND AT THAT MOMENT---

UNUS IS LOOKING STRAIGHT AT MASTERMIND... THEY SEEM TO *KNOW* EACH OTHER!

OF COURSE! UNUS MUST BE A *MUTANT*, TOO! HIS POWER IS TOO STRONG, TOO UNNATURAL, FOR ANY OTHER EXPLANATION! BUT, EVEN IF HE JOINS MAGNETO'S EVIL BAND, IT'S NO CONCERN OF *MINE* ANY MORE!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER THE MATCH...

UNUS, I'M YOUR TRAINER...YOU CAN TELL *ME!* HOW *DO* YOU KEEP ALL THOSE OTHER GUYS FROM LAYIN' A HAND ON YA??

SHUT UP, MAXIE... AND BEAT IT! I'VE GOT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS!

WELL, MASTERMIND? WHAT'S MAGNETO'S VERDICT? CAN I JOIN YOUR GROUP OF MUTANTS?

NOT SO FAST, UNUS! MAGNETO HAS BEEN *DISAPPOINTED* BEFORE! * HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE HE CAN *TRUST* YOU!

* SEE X-MEN #7 "RETURN OF THE BLOB!"...STAN

HE'S CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE A REAL MUTANT... AND HE FEELS YOU'VE GOT PLENTY ON THE BALL... BUT HE WANTS YOU TO *PROVE* YOURSELF!

HOW? WHAT CAN I *DO?*

WELL, IF YOU WERE TO FIND THE *X-MEN* FOR US, FOR EXAMPLE... OR EVEN TO *BEAT* ONE OF THEM...!

LATER, AS UNUS THOUGHTFULLY WALKS THROUGH THE STREET...

OF *COURSE* I COULD BEAT ONE OF THE X-MEN... OR *ALL* OF THEM! *NOTHING* CAN DEFEAT ME! BUT WHERE DO I *FIND* THEM? I'VE NEVER EVEN *SEEN* ONE IN PERSON!

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AT THAT POINT, *FATE* HERSELF STEPS IN! FOR UNUS ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLES ONTO A BIG BANK ROBBERY WHICH IS IN PROGRESS AROUND THE CORNER...

GUNMEN! ROBBING THE BANK! COME TO THINK OF IT, *I* CAN PUT THAT MONEY TO BETTER USE THAN *THEY* CAN!

MOVE...BEFORE THE PLACE IS SWARMIN' WITH COPS!!

ALL WE HAVETA DO IS MAKE IT TO THE GETAWAY CAR ACROSS THE STREET!

BANK

BUT, THE STARTLED CRIMINALS ARE NEVER DESTINED TO *REACH* THAT WAITING CAR! AT LEAST, NOT WITH ANY STOLEN MONEY!

I'LL TAKE THAT MONEY BAG!

IF MAGNETO *DOESN'T* ALLOW ME TO JOIN HIS BROTHERHOOD, AT LEAST THIS MONEY WILL HELP LAUNCH ME ON MY *OWN* CAREER OF CONQUEST!

HEY, *LOOK*, CHARLIE! MY BULLETS DON'T EVEN *TOUCH* 'IM! THEY JUST GO FLYIN' AWAY!

DON'T YA KNOW WHO THAT *IS*? IT'S *UNUS*, THE *UNTOUCHABLE*!

AND, AS THE BULLETS MISS THE UNCANNY UNUS, THEY RICOCHET BACK FROM THE NEARBY WALLS, CAUSING THE GUNMEN TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES!

LET'S GET *OUTTA* HERE, BEFORE WE'RE HIT BY OUR OWN SHELLS!!

MEANWHILE, A POWERFUL, PRIVATELY-OWNED HELICOPTER IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THAT SAME AREA...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THERE'S A NEW MUTANT AT LARGE, CYCLOPS?

PROFESSOR X'S CEREBRO MACHINE DETECTED HIS PRESENCE ...AND THE READINGS SEEMED TO INDICATE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!

IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM THE SAME TO BE HEADING INTO A NEW ADVENTURE WITHOUT THE *BEAST*!

WE *ALL* FEEL THE SAME WAY, WARREN ...BUT LET'S CONCENTRATE ON THE JOB AT HAND NOW!

LOOK! SOMETHING'S GOING *ON* DOWN THERE!

THE *BANK'S* BEEN ROBBED! YOU LAND THE CHOPPER...I'LL GLIDE DOWN UNDER MY OWN POWER AND LOOK AROUND!

THAT BIG FELLA WITH THE MONEY BAG...HE MUST BE ONE OF THE ROBBERS!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, BUDDY! I WANNA *TALK* TO YOU!

WHAT A STROKE OF *LUCK!* NOW I WON'T HAVE TO *FIND* YOU BEFORE I CAN POLISH YOU OFF!

SO, YOU *ARE* ONE OF THE ROBBERS!! WELL, I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO MAKE IDLE THREATS TO AN *X-MAN!*

STRANGE...HE DOESN'T SEEM THE LEAST BIT WORRIED! HE'S CALMLY FOLDING HIS OUTER CLOTHES!

IF I'M GOING TO BECOME ONE OF MAGNETO'S ALLIES, I MIGHT AS WELL DO MY FIGHTING IN A DISTINCTIVE COSTUME!

THUS, AS THE OTHER X-MEN LAND IN THEIR WHIRLYBIRD, *ANGEL* IS THE FIRST TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE OF UNUS' FEARSOME POWER!

UNNHH!

THE WAY WARREN WAS HURLED FROM THAT MUSCLE MAN BEFORE HE COULD TOUCH HIM, TELLS ME ALL I NEED TO KNOW! WE'VE *FOUND* OUR MUTANT!!

STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU! I'LL TACKLE HIM WITH MY *POWER BEAM!*

THIS IS USELESS! MY ENERGY BLASTS BOUNCE AWAY BEFORE HITTING HIM... AND THEY'LL HIT ONE OF *US*, IF I DON'T STOP!!

YOU SEEM TO BE THE LEADER...SO *YOU* SHALL BE MY VICTIM!

I DODGED HIS *FIRST* BLOW, BUT I CAN'T DODGE FOREVER! HOW DO WE BEAT A MAN WHO CANNOT BE TOUCHED BY ENEMY ATTACK?!! IF HE JOINS MAGNETO, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE *X-MEN??*

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IF I CAN'T USE MY POWER BEAM, PERHAPS MY *FISTS* WILL--*NO!* *NOTHING* SEEMS ABLE TO TOUCH HIM!

NOW YOU SEE WHY I'M CALLED UNUS-- THE *UNTOUCHABLE!!*

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, *I* AM ABLE TO TOUCH WHOMEVER I CHOOSE!

DUCK, CYCLOPS! *I'LL* GET 'IM FOR YOU!

NO! WAIT-- *STUDY* HIM FIRST! WE NEED A *PLAN!* HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN I EXPECTED!

THERE! BY THE TIME YOU LAND, THE FIGHT WILL BE KNOCKED OUT OF YOU, AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO *MAGNETO!*

JUST AS I FEARED! HE *DOES* WANT TO JOIN MAGNETO'S EVIL GROUP!

MARVEL GIRL! PLAN G-5! QUICKLY!

GOOD WORK! A PERFECT TELEKINETIC CATCH!

ALL OUR HOURS OF TRAINING AND PRACTICE CERTAINLY WEREN'T *WASTED!* WHAT *NEXT,* CYCLOPS?

KID STUFF! YOU HAVEN'T A *CHANCE!*

FIRST, PUT ME DOWN NEAR UNUS! GOOD!

AND NOW-- *ICEMAN!* TRY MANEUVER F-12-- QUICK-FREEZE INTENSITY!

WE *HAVEN'T,* EH? JUST WAIT'LL THIS "INSTANT IGLOO" FORMS AROUND YOU, LOUD-MOUTH! YOU'RE NOT TACKLIN' *AMATEURS,* BUB!

IS THERE *NOTHING* YOU FREAKS CAN'T DO??!

WHEN YOU TACKLE *ONE* X-MAN, YOU TACKLE *ALL* OF US! AND DON'T YOU *FORGET* IT!

NO TEEN-AGE BRAT OF A MUTANT CAN TALK TO *UNUS* THAT WAY! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN AN ICY CAGE TO HOLD *ME!!*

THEN, MOVING LIKE THE POWERFUL, TRAINED ATHLETE HE IS, THE UNCANNY UNUS SHATTERS THE STILL-HARDENING ICE ENCLOSURE BEFORE IT CAN FREEZE TO ITS FULL STRENGTH!

I DON'T *HAVE* TO DEPEND UPON MY MUTANT POWERS ALONE!! I DIDN'T SPEND YEARS IN THE RING FOR *NOTHING!*

THIS LOOKS *BAD!* HE'S ALMOST AS STRONG AS THE *BEAST!*

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED ICEMAN CAN REGATHER HIS ENERGY FOR ANOTHER ATTACK...

WHAT *ODDS* WILL YOU GIVE, MUSCLE-BOUND ??

AND *NOW*-- I'LL SHATTER YOU LIKE A PANE OF WINDOW GLASS--!!

ANOTHER ONE, EH? IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME-- ANY *ONE* OF YOU WILL DO!

YOUR ONLY POWER IS IN YOUR WINGS--AND THEY CAN'T DO YOU ANY GOOD AGAINST A BREAK-PROOF *WRESTLING HOLD!*

CAN'T LAND A BLOW! HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING *ELSE!*

SUDDENLY, THE GREAT BEATING *WINGS* SPREAD OUT, AND BOTH MUTANTS SOAR INTO THE SKY ABOVE...!

ANYONE CAN RASSLE, UNUS! BUT HERE'S A LITTLE *FLYING LESSON* FOR YOU!

YOU CAN'T HANG ON FOREVER!

WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH GOOD YOUR POWER DOES YOU--WHEN YOU *FALL!*

YOU CAN'T BLUFF ME! YOU'RE NOT MURDERERS-- AND I *KNOW* IT!

I WAS *AFRAID* OUR PLEDGE NEVER TO CAUSE HARM WITH OUR POWER WOULD ONE DAY WORK AGAINST US!

OKAY! MAYBE I *CAN'T* LET YOU BE HARMED... BUT I'LL SURE STOP *YOU* FROM HURTING ANYONE *ELSE*!

YOU CAN STAY UP *THERE* FOR A WHILE TO COOL OFF! AND I MAY NOT BE SO CHARITABLE *NEXT* TIME!

NICE GOING, WARREN!

WE STOPPED HIM FOR *NOW*! BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF HE MENACES US *AGAIN*?

NEXT TIME HE'LL BE TOO SMART TO TRY TO GRAB YOU, ANGEL!

HIS POWER CERTAINLY IS A *STRANGE* ONE! ALTHOUGH HE *CAN* BE TOUCHED, IT SEEMS THAT ANY WEAPON, OR ANY BLOW THROWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF *INJURING* HIM, IS AUTOMATICALLY DEFLECTED IN SOME WAY!

IF HE EVER JOINS *MAGNETO*, HOW WOULD WE FIGHT HIM?

NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO *NOW*! LET'S GET BACK TO HQ AND THINK THIS OUT!

AND SO...

EVEN IF THE *BEAST* HADN'T QUIT, HIS STRENGTH COULDN'T HELP US! HE'D BE UNABLE TO LAND A BLOW!

HOLD IT! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE *LAB*!!

IT'S... THE *BEAST*!

HANK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING *BACK* HERE? DOES THIS MEAN...?

IT PROBABLY MEANS I'M A KING-SIZED, ADDLE-PATED GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT!!

BUT, SINCE I'M APPARENTLY THE ONLY ONE WITH THE TECHNICAL SKILL AND INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY TO DEVISE A COUNTER-WEAPON TO UNUS' POWER, IT BEHOOVES ME TO SAVE YOU FROM A POSSIBLE IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT!

WHAT *TYPE* OF WEAPON *IS* THAT?

THE ONLY KIND THAT CAN ACHIEVE YOUR OBJECTIVE! A RAY TO *INCREASE* UNUS' POWER!

TO *INCREASE* HIS POWER?? HAVE YOU GONE *MAD*??!

HOLD IT, BEAST! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS... BUT YOU'D BETTER HAVE A MIGHTY GOOD EXPLANATION!

HE MUST HAVE ALREADY JOINED MAGNETO! WE CAN'T LET HIM *LEAVE* WITH THAT RAY!!

EVEN THOUGH HE QUIT, I NEVER THOUGHT HANK WOULD REALLY TURN *AGAINST* US LIKE THIS!

DROP THAT RAY, McCOY! I SAID DROP IT!

CYCLOPS, DON'T! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING!* I *MUST* DO THIS... IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

IN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND, THE *BEAST* LIVES UP TO HIS NAME BY MOVING WITH THE SPEED AND AGILITY OF A JUNGLE CAT...

CYCLOPS! WHY DIDN'T YOU *STOP* HIM!?

I COULDN'T! I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO HIT HIM WITH MY POWER BEAM! BUT... WE'VE GOT TO GO *AFTER* HIM!

UNUS MUST BE BACK AT THE *GYM* BY NOW! THAT'S PROBABLY THE BEAST'S DESTINATION! LET'S *MOVE!*

HANG ON, JEAN! I'LL TAKE YOU WITH US LIKE *THIS*... IT'S THE FASTEST WAY!

BE CAREFUL NOT TO SLIP ON MY ICY PATH, SCOTTY!

MINUTES LATER...

LOOK, MASTERMIND! TELL MAGNETO TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE! I *ALMOST* HAD 'EM LICKED! THEY WON'T ESCAPE ME *NEXT* TIME!

THERE WON'T *BE* A NEXT TIME, UNUS! NOT FOR *YOU!*

ANOTHER X-MAN! WELL, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, I'LL... UNHHH!

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, MUSCLE MAN! PERHAPS THIS WILL SILENCE YOU..!

YOU FOOL! THAT DIDN'T AFFECT ME!

WAIT! IT DID! I CAN FEEL IT! IT MADE ME STRONGER THAN EVER! MY POWER HAS BEEN INCREASED!

I DIDN'T REALIZE... YOU MUST BE ON MY SIDE! MAGNETO MUST HAVE SENT YOU!

THINK WHAT YOU WANT TO, UNUS!

AND NOW, LET'S PUT YOUR NEW POWER TO THE TEST!

I WAS RIGHT! I'M MORE UNTOUCHABLE THAN EVER! LOOK HOW FAST THAT THING BOUNCED AWAY FROM ME!

WE'RE TOO LATE! HE'S USED HIS RAY!

OH, NO! HOW COULD HE??

IT WAS EASY, MARVEL GIRL! I COULDN'T PERMIT YOU TO STOP ME!

CYCLOPS! WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?

NOTHING YET! STAY BACK! SEE WHAT UNUS TRIES TO DO!

I'LL RESTRAIN THEM, UNUS! YOU EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR NEW POWER... THEN WE'LL BE BACK!

YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD MEMBER FOR MAGNETO, TOO! ANYONE WHO'D BETRAY HIS OWN TEAM BY HELPING THE ENEMY...!

THEN, AS THE SHOCKED X-MEN LEAVE THE GYM...

CYCLOPS... LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE HANK! I.. I CAN'T GET MY-SELF TO DO IT!

WASN'T IT ENOUGH TO DESERT US? DID YOU HAVE TO BETRAY US AS WELL?!

I DID IT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE! SCOTT, YOU'LL SEE!

TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME!

LATER, BACK INSIDE THE GYM, UNUS CROWS IN TRIUMPH...!

WAIT'LL MAGNETO HEARS THAT ONE OF THE X-MEN WAS SO FRIGHTENED OF ME THAT HE *INCREASED* MY POWER IN ORDER TO BECOME MY ALLY!

HE'LL *HAVE* TO LET ME JOIN HIS MUTANT BAND AFTER THAT!

NOW, NOT ONLY ARE MENACING BLOWS AND WEAPONS UNABLE TO TOUCH ME, BUT I CAN MAKE *ANYTHING* SPIN AWAY FROM ME BY MERELY GETTING NEAR IT!

I'M *COMPLETELY* UNTOUCHABLE! I'M THE MOST INVULNERABLE MAN ALIVE! *NOTHING* CAN TOUCH ME...THEREFORE NOTHING CAN *HARM* ME!

I'LL GRAB A CIGARETTE WHILE I CALL MASTERMIND AND TELL HIM WHAT HAP... *HEY!!*

I CAN'T *TOUCH* THE BLAMED THING! IT KEEPS MOVING *AWAY* FROM ME!

BLAST IT! NO BLAMED CIGARETTE IS GONNA STOP *ME* FROM SMOKIN' IT!

I'LL THROW MYSELF ON TOP OF THE TABLE AND GRAB IT BEFORE IT CAN... *WAIT!!*

MISSED IT *AGAIN!*

THIS IS *CRAZY!* NOW EVEN THE *TABLE* IS SHOVIN' ITSELF AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT'S GOIN' *ON* HERE?? WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME?? WHAT *GOOD* IS MY NEW POWER IF I CAN'T *CONTROL* IT??

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DAZED, CONFUSED, THE ANGRY MUTANT WALKS INTO THE STREET, AS EVERY OBJECT HE PASSES RECOILS AS THOUGH IT HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN!

OUT OF MY *WAY*, *FOOLS!* I'M INVULNERABLE, CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M *UN-TOUCHABLE!*

FINALLY, THE PANGS OF HUNGER BEGIN TO GNAW AT HIM, AND SO ...

GIVE ME A *STEAK*... AND MAKE IT *FAST*... UNDERSTAND??

SURE, BIG FELLA! I'VE GOT ONE RIGHT HERE! I WAS GONNA GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE, B-BUT HE'S NOT AS *BIG* AS YOU!

WHA..?? IT FLEW RIGHT OUT OF THE PLATE!

THEN GIVE ME *ANOTHER!* I'M HUNGRY, DO YOU HEAR... *HUNGRY!*

CYCLOPS! YOU'D BETTER CONTACT *PROFESSOR X!* *HE'LL* KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THE BEAST!

NO, BOBBY! I WON'T DISTURB HIM YET! THE BEAST CAN DO NOTHING MORE WHILE HE'S *WITH* US!

IT'S TOO *LATE* TO DO ANYTHING NOW! JUST WAIT... YOU'LL SEE!

I HAVE *ANOTHER* PLAN TO TRY NOW! ARE YOU *READY*, WARREN?

READY, CYKE!

PERFECT! IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE'LL DROP A PLASTIC BUBBLE LIKE THIS ONE OVER UNUS! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH IT... IT WILL MOVE *WITH* HIM! IT WILL BE A FORM OF PORTABLE PRISON!

GET THE *PHONE*, JEAN! IT MUST BE *ICEMAN!* I SENT HIM TO THE CITY, TO KEEP WATCH ON UNUS!

I HOPE BOBBY DIDN'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE! IF UNUS SHOULD CATCH HIM ALONE...!

RRRINNGG!

BOBBY IS A FULL-FLEDGED GRADUATE *X-MAN* NOW! HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF!

WHAT DOES HE *SAY?*

HE WANTS US TO COME TO THE CORNER OF BROAD-WAY AND 46TH STREET... ON THE DOUBLE!

EXACTLY TEN SECONDS LATER...

DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES, BEAST! WE'RE ALL *WATCHING* YOU!

I APPLAUD YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT! YOU COULDN'T HAVE SELECTED A LOVELIER SPECIMEN FOR OBSERVATION!

FINALLY...

WHERE'S ICEMAN? OH, THERE HE IS! HE'S INCOGNITO!

NATURALLY! I DIDN'T WANT UNUS TO KNOW HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED!

HE'S ALL YOURS, CYKE! RIGHT INSIDE...

AH! JUST AS I ANTICIPATED!

I'VE *GOT* TO HAVE SOME FOOD! I'M *STARVING*! THERE *MUST* BE A WAY! I MUST EAT... I *MUST*!

THE ONLY THING THAT'LL SAVE YOU IS *ANOTHER* BLAST FROM MY RAY GUN, UNUS! BUT FIRST, THERE ARE A FEW CONDITIONS...!

ANYTHING! I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU SAY... I'LL MAKE ANY PROMISE...

VERY WELL! THIS WILL NULLIFY THE EFFECT OF THE LAST SHOT! YOU'LL BE AS YOU WERE BE-FORE!

CYCLOPS! HE'S USING THAT BLAMED RAY AGAIN!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

I'M *SAVED*! I CAN *TOUCH* THINGS AGAIN! I CAN *EAT*...!

BUT REMEMBER THIS, UNUS...

WE'RE *KEEPING* OUR LITTLE RAY GUN! ANYTIME WE HEAR THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN OUT OF LINE, OR THAT YOU'VE TRIED TO CONTACT MAGNETO... YOU'LL GET *ANOTHER* TREATMENT... AND *NEXT* TIME, WE'LL THROW THE *ANTIDOTE* AWAY!

DON'T YOU GUYS WORRY! THERE WON'T *BE* A NEXT TIME! I'VE *HAD* IT!

I GUESS I WAS NEVER CUT OUT TO BE A FAMOUS SUPER-POWERED COSTUMED ADVENTURER! I'M GOIN' BACK TO THE RASSLIN' RING... WHERE I BELONG!

AND *I'M* BACK WHERE *I* BELONG, TOO... WITH THE *X-MEN*!

THANKS FOR NOT BLASTING ME TILL I COULD DO WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, SCOTT!

DEEP DOWN, I NEVER REALLY LOST FAITH IN YOU, HANK!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU THE *LEADER* YOU ARE!

And so, THE ASTOUNDING *X-MEN* ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, LITTLE DREAMING THAT THEIR *NEXT* BATTLE WILL *NOT* BE AGAINST A MUTANT MENACE... BUT SOME-THING *STILL* MIGHTIER... STILL MORE DANGEROUS!!

The End.

AN X-MEN X-TRA

SPECIAL PIN-UP PAGE

The BEAST

Indubitably Yours, Hank McCoy

MINUTEMEN

Blunt

Brian Azzarello